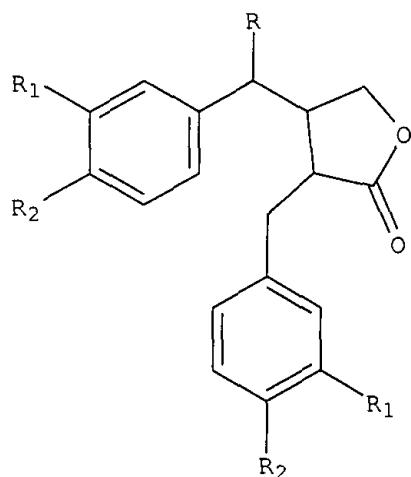


AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 4, Paragraph 20

[0020] Thus, according to one aspect, this invention relates to a method of inhibiting the overactivity of phagocytes or lymphocytes in an individual by administering to said individual an effective amount of a lignan, wherein said lignan has the formula



wherein R is H or OH when R₁ is OCH₃ and R₂ is OH or R is H when R₁ is OH and R₂ is H,
wherein said lignan is hydroxymatairesinol when R is OH, R₁ is OCH₃ and R₂ is OH, or is
matairesinol when R is H, R₁ is OCH₃ and R₂ is OH or is enterolactone when R is H, R₁ is OH and
R₂ is H, and

wherein

- i) the phagocytes are neutrophils and the lignan is hydroxymatairesinol or matairesinol or mixtures thereof, or
- ii) the phagocytes are cells of myeloid origin and the lignan is enterolactone or hydroxymatairesinol or mixtures thereof, or

iii) the lymphocytes are T-lymphocytes and the lignan is hydroxymatairesinol, matairesinol

or enterolactone or mixtures thereof.
